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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,549	03/26/2004	Toshiaki Ishiguro	000409-106	6143
21839	7590	06/06/2005	EXAMINER	
BURNS DOANE SWECKER & MATHIS L-L P				NGUYEN, THU V
POST OFFICE BOX 1404				ART UNIT
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404				PAPER NUMBER
				3661

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/809,549	ISHIGURO ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Thu Nguyen	3661		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 March 2004.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 2-4 and 6-9 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 1 and 5 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/14/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____ .

Ex Parte Quayle

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

In the abstract:

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be within the range of 50 to 150 words. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. Presently, the abstract includes a plurality of phraseology "means". It is also noted that the length of the abstract is now 149 words.

In the specification:

In the specification page 14, line 2, the disclosed "filtered acceleration hd" should be corrected to "filtered acceleration hdv".

In the claim:

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1, 5 are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - a. In claim 1, line 22, the claimed "an limiter initial value" should be corrected to "a limiter initial value".

- b. In claim 1, line 26-27, the claimed “the vehicle weight averaged” should be corrected to “the averaged vehicle weight” to maintain consistency with the claimed “averaged vehicle weight” stated in claims 3, 4, etc.
- c. In claim 5, claim 5 should depend on claim 4 (since claim 4 teaches the “predetermined estimating number” stated in claim 5, lines 3-4), or the claimed “the predetermined estimating number” should be corrected to “a predetermined estimating number” since claim 1 does not teach the “predetermined estimating number”.

Allowable Subject Matter

- 4. Claims 1-9 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth in this Office action.
- 5. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior arts of record does not teach a weight estimating device which comprises a limiter determining means for setting a limiter initial value, an upper limiter and a lower limiter passing the limiter initial value, the limiter determining means sets an initial area framed by the limiter initial value, the upper limiter and the lower limiter; the vehicle weight correcting means corrects the averaged vehicle weight based on the initial area during an initial estimation of the vehicle weight. The averaged vehicle weight is determined based on the integration of the low pass filtered values of the acceleration and the driving force of the vehicle during a predetermined period.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thu Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6967. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F (7:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on (571) 272-6956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

May 28, 2005


THU V. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER